dogs, except the rabid or suspected rabid dogs, had to be discontinued under court orders.

(c) It has been the constant endeavour of both the MCD and the NDMC to impound the stary cattles so that this menace could be effectively curbed.

विदेशी खुफिया एजेंसियों पर रोक लगाना

4192. **श्री रामगोपाल यादव:**
श्री ईश दत्त यादव:

क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या सरकार देश के आतंरिक मामलों में विशेषकर सरकार के काम-काज में प्रत्यक्ष या परोक्ष रूप से हस्तक्षेप करने अथवा निगरानी रखने या रूचि लेने में लगी विदेशी खुफिया एजेंसी/एजेंसियों पर नजर रखने या उस पर रोक लगाने के लिए कोई कदम उठाने पर विचार करेगी, यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और ऐसा कब तक किया जाएगा?

गृह मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मोहम्मद मकबूल डार): (क) सरकार के कामकाज में हस्तक्षेप करने या इसे प्रभावित करने का प्रयास करने वाली विदेशी आसूचना एजेंसियों की गतिविधियों पर सरकार कड़ी नजर रख रही है। तथापि, इस संबंध में ब्यौरे देना राष्ट्र की सुरक्षा के हित में नहीं होगा।

Bill on Open and Transparent administration

4193. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Committee has recently drafted Bill on freedom of information proposed to be introduced by Government, inter-alia, giving an open and transparent administration of Government; and

(b) if so, the details regarding constitution of the Committee along with its terms of reference and by when the Bill is likely to be introduced in the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) Government have set up a Working Group on Right to Information and Promotion of open and transparent Government. A copy of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions O.M. No. 34011/1(S)/97-Estt. (B) dated the 2nd January, 1997 indicating the composition and terms of references of the Group, is enclosed as Statement (*See* below). The Group was initially given a period of 2 months to submit its report. However, keeping in view the complexities/intricacies of the subject referred to it, an extension of time upto 31st May, 1997 has been given to the Group for submission of the report.

Statement

Copy of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions indications the Composition and terms of references of the working Group on Right to Information and Promotion of open and transparent Government.

No. 34011/1 (S) 97-Estt. (B)
Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, P.G. & Pensions
Department of Personnel & Training

New Delhi, dated 2nd Jan. 1997

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT:—Setting up of a Working Group on Right to Information and Promotion of open and transparent Government.

There is widespread agreement on the need for a clean and responsive administration based on the principle of accountability, openness, decentralisation and citizen orientation. In the context of the National Debate of Effective and Responsive Adminstration initated by the Government of India, it has been decided to formulate specific measures for the introduction of greater transparency in the functioning of Government and public bodies, with reference to both their own employees, and interaction

with members of the public. It is also considered necessary to ensure widespread and easy access of citizens to all information relating to operations of Government and public agencies, subject to specified exceptions. For this purpose, the possibility of the introduction of a legislation for Right to Information at the levels of Central and State Government could be examined after appropriate consultations. This would involve also the consideration of amendment of various relevant legislations including the Official Secrets Act.

2. In view of the above, it has been decided, with the approval of Cabinet Secretary, to constitute a Working Group on "Right to Information and Transparency" under the Chairmanship of Shri H.D. Shourie, Chairman, Common Cause, New Delhi with the following composition:—

1. Shri H.D. Shourie — Chairman
2. Shri Soli Sorabjee — Member
3. PIO, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting — Member
4. A representative of the Ministry of Home affairs — Member
5. Additional/Joint Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs — Member
6. A representative of the Ministry of Railways — Member
7. A representative of the Department of Posts — Member
8. A representative of the Department of Telecom. — Member
9. Shri Harinder Singh, Jt. Secy., Department of Personnel and Training. — Member

3. The Terms of Reference of the Working group are as follows:

(a) To examine the feasibility and need of either a full fledged Right to Information Act or its introduction in a phased manner to meet the needs of open and responsive Government.

(b) To identify specific areas where Right to Information can be built into the working procedures and working system especially in large departmental undertakings including Railways, Telecommunications, Postal Services, Passports and Banking at the Central Government level.

(c) To examine the internal working procedures with a view to introducing greater openness and transparency in handling of employee grievances and internal consultation.

(d) To examine the rules framework with particular reference to the existing Conduct Rules and Manual of Office Procedure with a view to intorducing greater openness and transparency in Government working including dealings with employees.

(e) To examine the nature and content of training to promote greater openness and more customer responsive public dealings.

4. The Working Group will submit its report witin a period of two months.

5. The expenditure on local transport and other allowances of the non-official members, as per rules applicable to Group 'A' officers of the Government of India, will be met from the budget of Department of Personnel and Training.

(Y.G. Parande)
Director
Tele. 3015589

To

Shri H.D. Shourie, A-31, Westend, New Delhi-110021.

Shri Soli Sorabjee, Sr. Advocate, 134, Sundar Nagar, New Delhi-110003.

Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.

Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, North Block, New Delhi.

Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.

Chairman, Railway Board, Rail Bhavan, New Delhi.

Implementation of Employment Assurance Scheme in the North-East

4194. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the achievements of Employment Assurance Scheme in the North Eastern States since its start, Statewise; and

(b) whether it is implemented through a State-level Employment Advisory Committee or through the Gram Panchayats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) The information may please be seen in Annexue. [*See* Appendix 180. Annexure No. 87]

(b) The District Collector/Dy. Commissioner of the District is the "Implementing Authority" of the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and he gets the work done through implementing agencies in the district. There are district level EAS Committees and block EAS Committees to supervise the implementation of EAS in Accordance with EAS guidelines.

IRDP Plan for Vishakhapatnam

4195. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Integrated Rural Development Programme plan for Visakhapatnam;

(b) the number of beneficiaries likely to be benefited, STs, SCs ad OBCs, separately; and

(c) the period for which the programme is proposed to be funded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) IRDP is Centrally Sponsored Scheme and implemented in all the DRDAs of the States including Visakhapatnam of Andhra Pradesh. The expenditure under the Scheme is shared on 50:50 basis between the Centre and the State. During 1996-97 an amount of Rs.99.785 lakhs was released as Central Share to the DRDA Visakhapatnam against the Central Allcoation of Rs. 148.86 lakhs. The amount released is to be sent as per the annual action plan approved by the Governing Body of the DRDA.

(b) No physical targets are fixed by the Centre under the programme as the department is now laying more emphasis on per family investment by higher credit mobilisation. However, in the guidelines it has been specified that atleast 50% of the beneficiaries under the programme should be from SCs/STs. No specific targets have been stipulated for OBCs under the programe. SC/ST beneficiaries likely to be benefitted under the programme will be about 50% of the total number of IRDP beneficiaries in the district.

(c) IRDP is an on going programme and is likely to be continued during the 9th five year plan also.

CAPART Assistance to Voluntary Organisations of Gujarat

4196. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether district-wise assistance is being provided to the voluntary organisations of Gujarat;

(b) the details of complaints received so far against the voluntary